



Gayle Spear, left, with her raccoon pillow and a Lois Larson Christmas stocking, and Sheri Anderson with her wreath and Judy Woodmansee's quilted Christmas tree.

## PEO holds boutique sale

The Astorian

SEASIDE — The PEO Holiday Treasures Boutique sale is being held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Seaside Elks Lodge, 324 Avenue A.

In addition to homemade sweet and savory bakery items, there are theme tables: Christmas, children, beach, kitchen, woodsy, garden/floral and vintage items and jewelry.

Two silent auction items include an original William Steidel watercolor, donated by Bill and Sally Steidel of Steidel Art Gallery of Cannon Beach. The second item is a 6-foot by 2-foot quilted Christmas tree.

Masks are required. Credit cards are encouraged, but checks and cash will be accepted (exact amount is appreciated). The majority of funds earned from the sale generates resources to support deserving women entering or returning to complete their education.

For info about PEO, go to [peointernational.org](http://peointernational.org)

## Elks Lodge holds Veterans Night

The Astorian

attend.

SEASIDE — The Seaside Elks Lodge, 324 Avenue A, is holding a Veterans Night on Saturday. The community is welcome to

The program begins at 6 p.m., and is followed by a free spaghetti dinner. Veterans are encouraged to wear any part of their uniform.

# New polar bear comes to the Oregon Zoo

By KALE WILLIAMS  
The Oregonian

The Oregon Zoo has a new fluffy resident.

“Amelia Gray,” a 5-year-old polar bear, joined resident bear “Nora” last week. She got her name because Amelia means defender and she has a small patch of gray fur on her left side. Amelia Gray and Nora are half siblings, born to the same father bear about a year apart.

“Even though they’re siblings just a year apart in age, Nora and Amelia Gray have never met so it won’t be a family reunion,” said Amy Cutting, who oversees the zoo polar bear area. “Polar bears have a pretty solitary nature, but we do hope these two will form a positive relationship.”

Nora was born at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Ohio in late 2015. She was raised by zookeepers after her mother, a bear named “Aurora,” abandoned her after just six days. Nora remained at the zoo until the fall of 2016, when keepers there began to suspect that both Aurora and another bear, “Anana,” were pregnant. Nora left Ohio for the Oregon Zoo in September 2016.

Many of Nora’s early troubles — and moves from Ohio to Oregon to Utah and back to Oregon — were chronicled in a five-part series published by The Oregonian in 2017.

A few months after Nora left the Columbus Zoo, Anana gave birth to Amelia Gray, who shares a father with Nora. Despite their shared genealogy, zookeepers don’t think that will play a role in their social compatibility.

Amelia Gray was successfully raised by her mom. She and her half-sister, a bear named “Neva,” were transferred to the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore in 2018. Of the two, Amelia Gray, was the more reserved,



‘Amelia Gray’ explores her new surroundings at the Oregon Zoo after arriving from the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore earlier this month.

according to Mike McClure, general curator of the Maryland Zoo.

“Amelia Gray is more cautious of her surroundings and needs more time to assess all of the input she receives from her environment,” McClure said in a statement. “She also seems to do well having time alone to help her decompress from lots of (stimuli). Oregon’s new Polar Passage habitat has several different areas and will be able to provide her with her own space as needed and opportunities for continued socialization.”

Amelia Gray appears to be taking advantage of that extra space so far, according to Oregon Zoo officials, who said she and Nora have yet to inhabit the same space. It’s still unclear exactly what kind of relationship the two will develop with each other, Cutting said, as both come from very different backgrounds.

“They may fight, they may play or they may choose to spend time as far away from each other as possible,” Cutting told The Oregonian. “Amelia Gray is not as outgoing as Nora, according to her keepers, and she likes to have some ‘alone time’ — so we plan to give her as much space as she needs to settle in and be comfortable in her new home.”

What the bears will share, despite whatever happens between them socially, is a pivotal role in research. Nora has already taken part in a voluntary blood draw, a procedure that was unheard of among zoo bears before it was pioneered at the Oregon Zoo more than a decade ago. Keepers hope to begin training Amelia Gray to take part in blood draws as well.

Both bears will also likely be involved in research on new tracking devices for wild bears as well as help-

ing biologists better understand polar bear nutrition and genetics. The zoo has set up its swim flume — a hyperbaric chamber used to measure polar bears’ energy expenditure while swimming — but is waiting for the pandemic to subside before it makes it available to researchers.

Making polar bear research more accessible was a goal for the zoo when it undertook the redesign of its polar bear habitat, Cutting said. In the previous enclosure, much of the training that went on to make research possible happened behind the scenes, out of view of the zoo going public. Now, it’s on full display for all to view.

“We really wanted to focus on increasing scientific literacy,” Cutting said earlier this year.

Research on captive polar bears has become increasingly important in recent years. A recent study found that all but a few polar bear populations will be extinct by 2100 if carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere remain on their current path. Even with moderate cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, some populations could begin to see reproductive failure as soon as 2040, researchers found.

The same issue putting wild bears in peril — a decline in sea ice — has made studying them all the more difficult and some scientists have been forced to cancel field research expeditions because there simply wasn’t enough solid ice to work from.

Both Amelia Gray and Nora are available to the viewing public at the Oregon Zoo, but when and if they decide to form a bond is anyone’s guess, Cutting said.

“We hope visitors will be able to see the bears playing together soon, but that will really be up to them,” she said.

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